

Legislative News



January 23, 2009
Issue 7

Higher Education Legislation Introduced This Week

[HB 331 Faith](#) (R-St. Charles) Establishes the "GED+ Program" within the department of elementary and secondary education, which would be required to seek input from colleges, the CBHE, and other stakeholders.

[HB 332 Cunningham](#) (R-Rogersville) Allows members of the reserves of any branch of the United States armed forces to be eligible for a National Guard educational assistance grant.

[HB 390 Nolte](#) (R-Gladstone) Prohibits the enrollment of unlawfully present aliens in public institutions of higher education. This bill is similar to last year's [HB 1463](#).

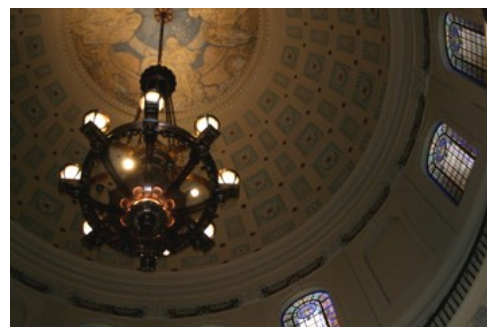
[HB 340 Cunningham](#) (R-Rogersville) Requires state agencies, public schools and colleges, and political subdivisions to use the traditional names of holidays.

[SB 232 Cunningham](#) (R-Chesterfield) Prohibits certain public agencies and political subdivisions from discrimination based on an individual's elementary and secondary education program. Employers may require individuals to have other abilities or skills applicable to their position.

Bad...But Not as Bad as It Could Be

Several important pieces of budget-related news were released this week, including:

- The budget shortfall predicted for the current fiscal year (FY 2009) is \$261 million. This isn't great – but it's a lot better than the \$342 million shortfall projected back in December.
- Announcements about current fiscal year withholdings to offset the shortfall may be made on Tuesday of next week.
- The consensus revenue estimate for FY 2010 is \$7.764 billion. This figure is based on state economists' predictions that general revenue



collections will grow 1% above the revised FY 2009 revenue figure.

- The Governor will outline his budget during next week's State of the State address, scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

Three Nixon Appointments Confirmed

On Thursday this week, the Missouri Senate confirmed three executive appointments made by Gov. Nixon. Kelvin Simmons, former chairman of the Public Service Commission and director of the Department of Economic Development, was confirmed as the Commissioner of Administration. Former Deputy Attorney General Karen King Mitchell was approved as the Director of Revenue. A current colonel in the Guard, Steve Danner, was confirmed as Adjutant General of the state Army and Air National Guard units.

Public Institution Presidents and Nixon Reach Funding Agreement

During visits to three university campuses on Wednesday, Gov. Nixon announced that he will recommend no cuts to the budgets of public institutions of higher education as long as institutions agree not to raise tuition. The Governor's recommendations for the FY 2010 budget are subject to change as appropriations bills make their way through the House and Senate.

Obama's Inaugural Address Acknowledges Challenges Facing Higher Education

"Everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. **And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. All this we will do.**"

Committee News

Senate Appropriations

[Gary Nodler \(R-Joplin\), Chair](#)
[Rob Mayer \(R-Dexter\), Vice-Chair](#)
[Tom Dempsey \(R-St. Charles\)](#)
[David Pearce \(R-Warrensburg\)](#)
[Chuck Purgason \(R-Caulfield\)](#)
[Scott Rupp \(R-Wentzville\)](#)
[Kurt Schaefer \(R-Columbia\)](#)
[Frank Barnitz \(D-Lake Spring\)](#)
[Joan Bray \(D-University City\)](#)
[Tim Green \(D-St. Louis\)](#)
[Yvonne Wilson \(D-Kansas City\)](#)



Sen. Gary Nodler

In 2002, Gary Nodler was elected to the Missouri Senate. He was re-elected in 2006 to another four-year term. Sen. Nodler graduated from Neosho High School in 1968 and Missouri Southern State University in 1972 with a B.A. in Political Science. Sen. Nodler was Congressman Gene Taylor's district staff director from 1973 until the Congressman retired in 1988. He was presented an Honorary Doctor of Education Degree from Missouri Western State University in 2007.

Senate Education Committee Meeting

The Senate Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 3 pm in the Senate Lounge.

Senate Education Committee

[Rob Mayer \(R-Dexter\), Chair](#)
[David Pearce \(R-Warrensburg\), Vice-Chair](#)
[Norma Champion \(R-Springfield\)](#)
[Gary Nodler \(R-Joplin\)](#)
[Scott Rupp \(R-Wentzville\)](#)
[Kurt Schaefer \(R-Columbia\)](#)
[Frank Barnitz \(D-Lake Spring\)](#)
[Rita Heard Days \(D-I 4\)](#)
[Yvonne Wilson \(D-Kansas City\)](#)



Sen. Rob Mayer

Elected to the Missouri Senate in 2004 and 2008, Sen. Mayer previously served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2000-2004. Sen. Mayer is a 1975 graduate of Dexter High School, received his under-graduate degree in political science from Southeast Missouri State University and his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Sen. Mayer is a practicing attorney.

House Appropriations-Education Committee

[Mike Thomson \(R-Maryville\), Chair](#)
[Chris Molendorp \(R-Belton\), Vice-Chair](#)
[Steve Hodges \(D-East Prairie\)](#)
[Theodore Hoskins \(D-Warrensburg\)](#)
[Gayle Kingery \(R-Poplar Bluff\)](#)
[Mike Lair \(R-Chillicothe\)](#)
[Sara Lampe \(D-Springfield\)](#)
[Martin T. Rucker \(D-St. Joseph\)](#)
[Rick Stream \(R-Kirkwood\)](#)
[Tom Todd \(D-Campbell\)](#)
[Maynard Wallace \(R-Thornfield\)](#)
[Kevin Wilson \(R-Neosho\)](#)

Governance Issues Clarified

Senate President Pro Tem Charlie Shields, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Gary Nodler, and other legislators participated in a conference call with higher education leaders on Tuesday this week to clarify that there are no plans to change the current governance structure of higher education in Missouri. Senator Nodler [maintained his position](#) on the need to strengthen the role of the coordinating board in the budget process and the need for higher education institutions to speak with a single voice in dealing with the legislature on appropriations requests.

House Higher Education Committee

[Gayle Kingery \(R-Poplar Bluff\), Chair](#)
[Mike Thomson \(R-Maryville\), Vice Chair](#)
[Walt Bivins \(R-St. Louis\)](#)
[Bob Dixon \(R-Springfield\)](#)
[Chuck Gatschenberger \(R-Lake St. Louis\)](#)
[Denny Hoskins \(R-Warrensburg\)](#)
[Rebecca Payne McClanahan \(D-Kirksville\)](#)
[Margo McNeil \(D-Florissant\)](#)
[Chris Molendorp \(R-Belton\)](#)
[Sue Schoemehl \(D-St. Louis\)](#)
[Jill Schupp \(D-Creve Coeur\)](#)
[Mary Still \(D-Columbia\)](#)

House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee

[Maynard Wallace \(R-Thornfield\), Chair](#)
[Rodney Schad \(R-Versailles\), Vice Chair](#)
[Joe Aull \(D-Marshall\)](#)
[Scott Dieckhaus \(R-Washington\)](#)
[Gary Dusenberry \(R-Blue Springs\)](#)
[Leonard S. Hughes \(D-Kansas City\)](#)
[Gayle Kingery \(R-Poplar Bluff\)](#)
[Sara Lampe \(D-Springfield\)](#)
[Cole McNary \(R-Chesterfield\)](#)
[Luke Scavuzzo \(D-Harrisonville\)](#)
[Tom Shively \(D-Shelbyville\)](#)
[Rick Stream \(R-Kirkwood\)](#)
[Terry Swinger \(D-Caruthersville\)](#)
[Mike Thomson \(R-Maryville\)](#)